

Subject: Teenage Pregnancy Action Plan 2009-11
Date of Meeting: 20 April 2009
Report of: Director of Children's Services
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Key Decision: No Forward Plan No. N/A
Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE/ EXEMPTIONS

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

1.1 The rate of teenage conceptions in Brighton & Hove remains high, relative to the rest of the South East of England, despite activity over a number of years focused on addressing the issue which has resulted in a decrease in the numbers. This report presents an Action Plan to improve this situation which is informed by local and national research into what will reduce teenage conceptions. It introduces a more proactive role for staff to ensure that young people are equipped with the appropriate skills, knowledge and understanding to make informed decisions about relationships. The Board is being requested to note the Action Plan, in particular the section on leadership which is recognised as being vitally important in effecting the change necessary to tackle this issue.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 The Board is asked to note the Action Plan for 2009-11 (**Appendix 1**)
- 2.2 The Board is asked to agree the specific recommendations surrounding leadership for the Brighton & Hove Teenage Pregnancy Action Plan.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

3.1 BACKGROUND

Work around teenage pregnancy has been captured in a series of Action Plans over the last 5 years. The plans have provided SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time bound) targets and actions that are necessary to meet the national and local targets and that conform to national guidance and best practice. They have been updated regularly in order to continually reflect the latest national guidance along with developments in local priorities and knowledge. The plans have been monitored by GOSE (Government Office of the South East), through regular liaison meetings and an annual review based on a Self Assessment of performance process. Progress against the plans has been reported to the Children & Young People's Trust (CYPT) Board, Primary Care

Trust (PCT) and the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). They have also been used as evidence in the Annual Performance Assessment of the CYPT.

3.2 THE ACTION PLAN 2007-09

The Action Plan for 2007/09 focused on implementing a targeted approach (particularly for Looked After Children), as national guidance stated that this was necessary in order to reduce the number of teenage conceptions. There was evidence of a high rate of teenage conceptions amongst young people who were, or had been 'Looked After', and risk factors had been studied which made it possible to predict which young women were most likely to conceive. The development of Integrated Youth Support was a significant development at this time as it aimed to build a cohesive response under the direction of a Lead Professional (using the assessment processes and tailored packages of support) to many of the key risk factors associated with teenage pregnancy – e.g. poor school attendance, low aspirations or poor parental support.

The actions in the 2007-09 Action Plan were to:

- Improve the co-ordination and performance management of partnership working, particularly in relation to targeting vulnerable young people likely to conceive
- Target the delivery of Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) to vulnerable young people likely to conceive through Targeted Youth Support Service (TYSS) and the delivery of school based group work programmes
- Introduce health screening for vulnerable groups, led by school nurses in four target schools.
- Extend the provision of young people friendly Contraception and Sexual Health (CASH) services in 'hot spot' wards
- Improve access to contraception, in particular Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC)
- Extend the pathway from the termination provider to the Healthy Living Centre (providing LARC at the point of procedure)
- Introduce postnatal sexual health and contraception assessment
- Improve antenatal and postnatal support to young parents
- Encourage young women most at risk of conception to take up vocational training
- Increase the availability of learning opportunities available for young parents
- Ensure that young parents live in suitable accommodation
- Provide 'Triple P' (parenting support) programmes for the parents of teenagers
- Identify the changes necessary to achieve the targeted approach, secure additional funding and commission on that basis

3.3 PROGRESS

The actions in the 2007-09 Action Plan have been implemented and the new services / initiatives will need further development and continued service improvement as part of their commissioning cycle. Performance indicators have

been developed to measure this on-going work and to facilitate a move towards an outcome based commissioning framework. Performance Indicators which can be monitored quarterly are being developed to cover all the areas of work on teenage pregnancy.

There has been some improvement in performance measured against the headline performance indicators. However, the rate of progress has been slower than expected and meeting the 2010 targets is now extremely challenging as shown by the graph below.

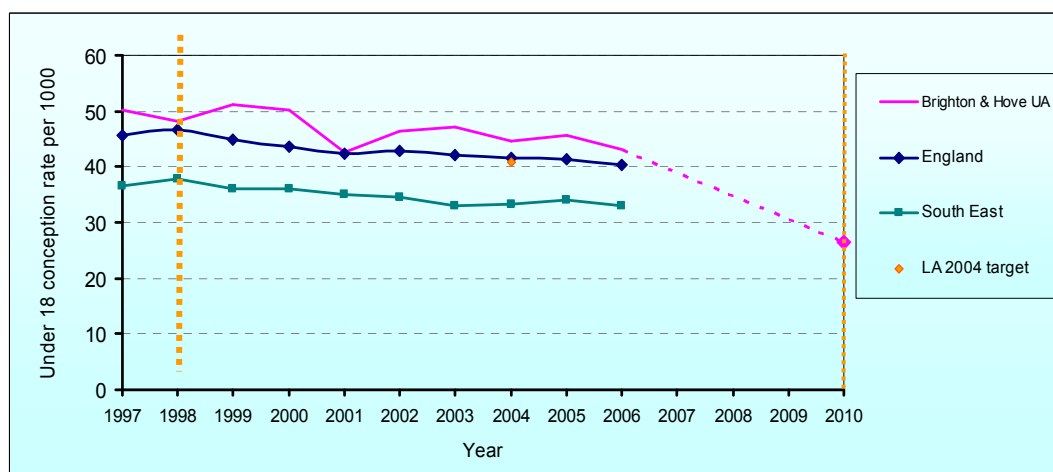


Table 1: LA Teenage Pregnancy Analysis. March 2008.

3.4 ANALYSIS OF UNDER PERFORMANCE

During 2008 it became increasingly obvious that although the Action Plan 2007-09 was being implemented the expected significant reduction in the rate of under-18 conceptions expected was not happening. In order to find out why this was the case, work was carried out to better understand where the obstacles lay. A number of issues were explored through a series of staff focus groups that helped to inform the development of the action plan. Other areas of performance were tested against other challenge processes. Local performance data and national research was also considered in order to come up with actions for improved performance against the under-18 conception rate target and other related performance targets.

3.5 ACTION PLAN 2009-11

The findings of the analysis of underperformance, described above, have been distilled into the Action Plan 2009-11 (**see Appendix 1 - Teenage Pregnancy Action Plan 2009/11**) which includes actions necessary to make the on-going work more effective through organisational development initiatives and enhanced service provision where there are current gaps. Managers within the CYPT were presented with this analysis as soon as the staff focus groups had taken place.

The Action Plan 2009/11, attached, sets the objectives under the headings of:

- Leadership
- Culture and Behaviour
- Integrated Planning and Review
- Effective Monitoring
- Workforce Development
- Service Provision

Under each heading there are actions which it is believed will significantly improve the performance of work on teenage pregnancy. The Action Plan cites evidence for each of the actions which are included. The plan represents a continuation of the approach over the last two years - working in partnership to target vulnerable groups and high rate areas. The new actions are designed to ensure that:

- There is strong leadership of the teenage pregnancy agenda
- There is a much more comprehensive performance management system for tracking progress and holding individuals to account for their performance
- Young people are provided with some alternative messages about their behaviour regarding sex and relationships
- Staff working with young people actively seek opportunities to deliver SRE and deliver the behaviour change interventions required of them
- Behaviour change initiatives (which are based on sound evidence of what works) are targeted at vulnerable young people
- The Youth Service has sufficient resources to provide universal opportunities and will work to improving attainment, behaviour and attendance, whilst raising aspirations for young people at risk of a range of factors. Youth workers will ensure a variety of positive activities are available and the programs are developed in partnership with young people.
- CASH services are used by young people

It is recognised that there are wider determinants to teenage pregnancy that will have an impact on reducing rates so the CYPT's priorities of reducing NEET, reducing schools exclusions, increasing attainment and reducing the number of children and young people who come into the care system will all have an impact on reducing early conceptions.

3.6 MONITORING THE ACTION PLAN 2009-11

Progress on the implementation of the Action Plan will be monitored by the multi-agency Teenage Pregnancy Performance Board every quarter. A problem solving approach will be taken to areas which are slow to be implemented. This monitoring will be integrated with the monitoring of the performance indicators. The Performance Board will report to the PCT PMO and the CYPT Performance Team and to GOSE quarterly.

3.7 REVIEW OF THE ACTION PLAN 2009-11

The action plan will be reviewed in 2010 to ensure that it still reflects best practice, national guidance, local needs and conditions and that it is resulting in improved performance against the headline indicators.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 The Teenage Pregnancy Action Plan is built upon evidence about what works regarding reducing the number of teenage conceptions and what the barriers to achieving change might be. This includes information provided as a result of focus groups with CYPT staff and research with local service users as well as national research which has drawn on the experiences of service users across the country

4.2 A wide range of organisations who work with young people in Brighton & Hove were consulted about the content of the Action Plan.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

51. The report details the action plan to reduce the incidence of teenage pregnancies in Brighton & Hove. The proposals within the report will be funded from within existing budget supplemented with contributions from the PCT. It is important that the financial position is reviewed to ensure there are no additional costs to the Council.

Finance Officer Consulted: Alan Haworth/Paul Brinkhurst *Date: 03/03/2009*

Legal Implications:

5.2 An effective teenage pregnancy strategy will assist the partners to the CYPT Board in meeting their duties to young people under the Children Act 2004, and in delivering the ECM agenda.

Layer Consulted: Natasha Watson *Date: 23/03/2009*

Equalities Implications:

5.3 There is a strong link between teenage conception and social deprivation which in itself is associated with physical, social, emotional risks for mother and child. The action plan will address the social exclusion of mother and child and will therefore contribute towards moving the child out of future child poverty

Sustainability Implications:

5.4 The action plan is funded as part of the PCT funding process and has sustainable funding for the length of the commissioned functions

Crime & Disorder Implications:

5.5 A reduction in teenage pregnancy because of its long term links to child deprivation will have a corresponding beneficial effect on community cohesion and the reduction in offending

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

5.6 The action plan is fully monitored for potential risks for non delivery.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

5.7 The action plan will contribute to the councils 2008/11 priorities and will contribute towards the reduction in health equalities.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

6.1 None

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 As per information contained in the body of the report.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Teenage Pregnancy Action Plan, 2009-11

Documents In Members' Rooms

1. None

Background Documents

1. None

2.